

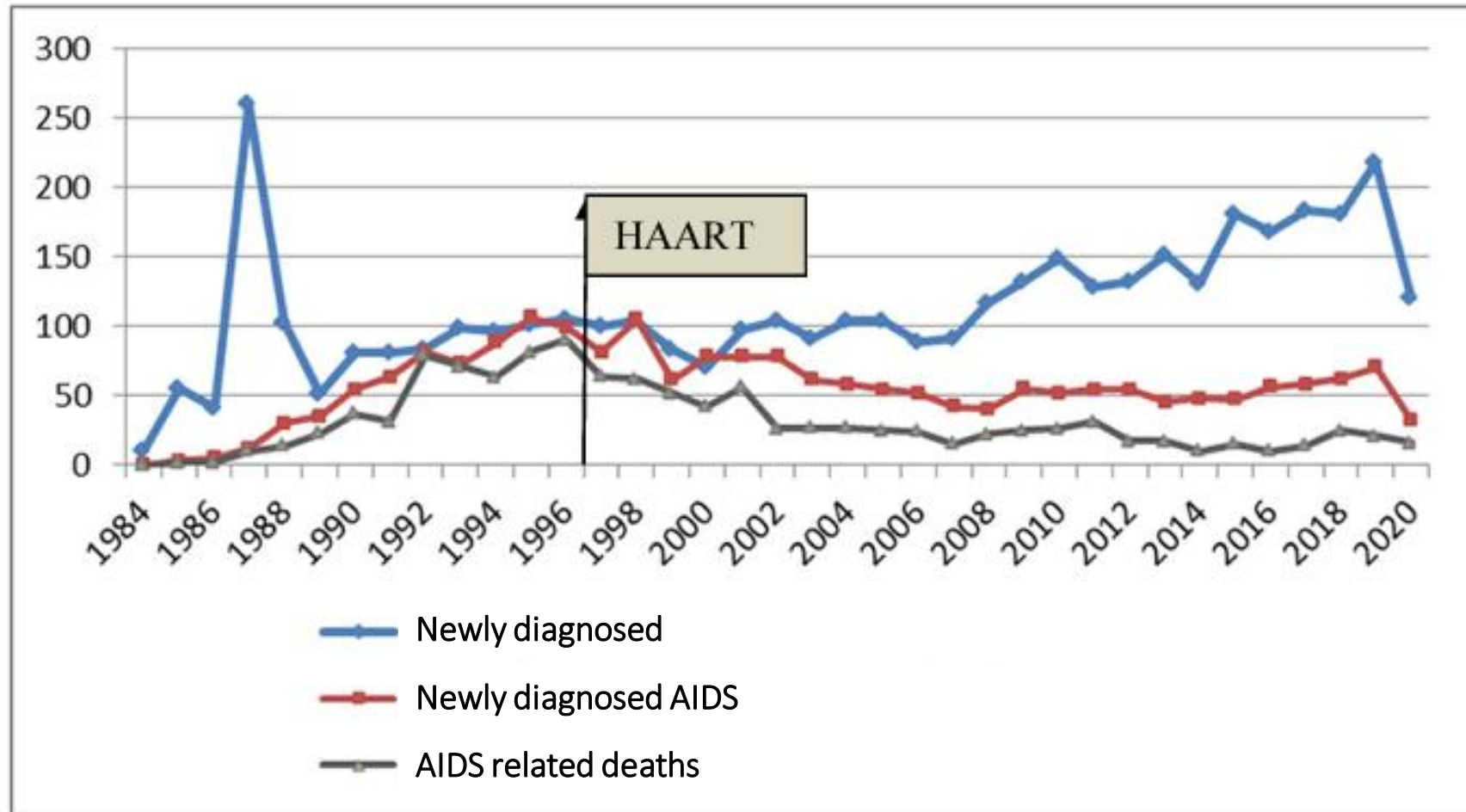
# HIV in Serbia

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# HIV epidemiology in Serbia

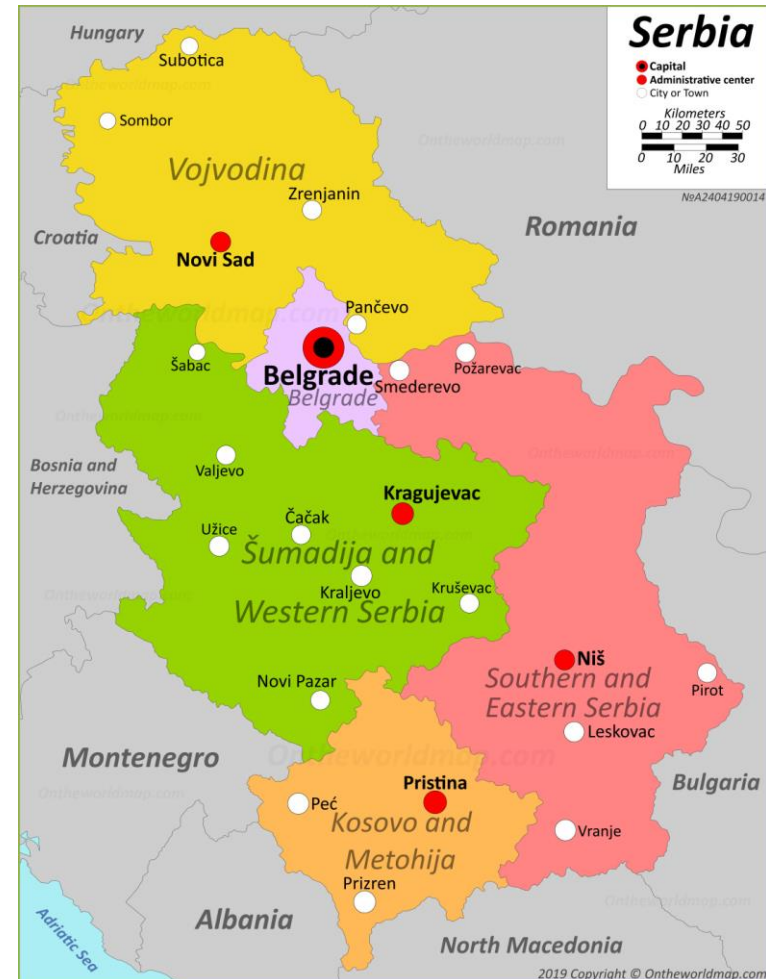


# HIV in Serbia

- 🌀 Based on data from the Institute of public health 4317 persons have been diagnosed with HIV from 1985. to 2021. godine
- 🌀 Although Serbia has low prevalence of HIV, the epidemic is concentrated in the MSM population with the prevalence of around 8%
- 🌀 Due to high stigma and selfstigma community testing is difficult but has been made a bit better due to NGO testing sites (i.e. NS check point)
- 🌀 Testing remains the weakest link in the HIV treatment cascade

# Linkage to care and treatment

- 🌀 To our knowledge there are no issues in linkage to care in Serbia
- 🌀 All persons who are tested positive are referred to one of 4 treatment centers
- 🌀 Treatment and testing (PCR, CD4, biochemical tests ) is available free of charge to all persons with state health insurance (secured for all persons living in Serbia)
- 🌀 Drugs are prescribed for a 6 month period and are supplied by local pharmacies



# HIV issues that need improvement

## PrEP is in its infancy

- *Brilliant practice is shown in Belgrade by dr Mila Paunic (a VCT consultant) in collaboration with an NGO*
- *We need more similar collaborations to overcome obstacles created by stigma and selfstigma*

## High stigma

- *More education is needed to medical and non medical professionals to reduce high stigma*

## Resistance testing is not a routine laboratory test

## Serbia still lacks all treatment options available in surrounding countries